



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 371

January Session, 2009

House Bill No. 5975

House of Representatives, March 31, 2009

The Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement reported through REP. WILLIS of the 64th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING ACADEMIC TRAINING IN RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS AND SUSTAINABILITY CAREERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Higher
2 Education, in consultation with the Commissioner of Economic and
3 Community Development and the Labor Commissioner, shall study
4 (1) academic programs that could be implemented at public
5 institutions of higher education in this state to develop and expand
6 green industries in this state, and (2) potential sources of federal
7 funding to establish or implement such academic programs. Not later
8 than January 1, 2010, the commissioner shall report on the study,
9 including any recommendations for legislation to the joint standing
10 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
11 relating to higher education in accordance with the provisions of
12 section 11-4a of the general statutes.

13 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2009*) Subject to the state-wide policy

14 and guidelines established by the Board of Governors of Higher
 15 Education and within available appropriations, the Board of Trustees
 16 of the Community-Technical Colleges shall establish certificate credit
 17 programs by January 1, 2012, to train and certify students in alternative
 18 and renewable energy and shall take all feasible steps to maximize
 19 federal funds available to support such certificate credit programs.

20 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2009*) The State Board of Education, in
 21 consultation with the Institute for Sustainable Energy and the
 22 Connecticut Green Building Council and within available
 23 appropriations, shall review the model green jobs programs offered at
 24 the regional vocational-technical schools and shall modify such
 25 programs by January 1, 2012, if necessary, to ensure that such
 26 programs provide sufficient training in renewable energy systems to
 27 allow students to seek certification in renewable energy systems by the
 28 Building Performance Institute, United States Green Building Council
 29 or the Interstate Renewable Energy Council.

30 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2009*) Subject to the state-wide policy
 31 and guidelines established by the Board of Governors of Higher
 32 Education and within available appropriations, the Board of Trustees
 33 of the Connecticut State University System shall establish academic
 34 programs to train students in alternative and renewable energy and
 35 shall take all feasible steps to maximize federal funds available to
 36 support such academic programs. Such academic programs shall be
 37 established in consultation with the Institute for Sustainable Energy
 38 and the Connecticut Green Building Council and shall be established
 39 by January 1, 2012.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	New section

HED *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 10 \$	FY 11 \$
Colleges, Regional Comm.-Tech.; CT State Univ.	GF - Future Cost	See Below	See Below
Higher Ed., Dept. CT State Univ.	GF - See Below	See Below	See Below
	GF - See Below	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

Section 1 requires the Commissioner of Higher Education to study and report on academic programs to develop and expand green industries in the state. It is anticipated that this would result in a minimal cost to the Department of Higher Education associated with hiring consultants, as no one in the department currently has a knowledge base in this field.

Sections 2 and 4 require the board of trustees of the Regional Community-Technical Colleges and the Connecticut State University System to establish alternative and renewable energy programs. It is estimated that a cost of \$200,000 would result in the Connecticut State University System (CSUS) to establish such programs.

Section 2 results in an eventual cost of approximately \$1.7 million to the Regional Community-Technical Colleges (RCTC) in FY 12 by requiring the RCTC's to establish certificate credit programs to train and certify students in alternative and renewable energy. There are 12 colleges in the system and the estimated cost of a single program is \$140,000. The RCTC system currently receives a federal grant of \$2.1 million to fund the program at 5 colleges until 2012.

Section 4 results in a significant future cost to the CSUS beginning in FY 12 by requiring the establishment of academic programs to train students in alternative and renewable energy. Costs will be dependent upon the eventual program make-up.

Section 3 requires the State Board of Education to review, and if necessary, modify the model green jobs program offered at the vocational-technical high schools. To the extent that the green jobs program must be modified, a potential cost could result to vocational-technical high schools of up to \$100,000.

The bill specifies that the agency implement the provisions of the bill within available appropriations. With passage of the bill, the agency would either (1) re-allocate existing funding for this purpose from another program; (2) incur additional costs; or (3) delay or not implement this program due to lack of funding.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation, except for **Sections 1 and 3**, which would be one-time costs for program modification or development.

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5975*****AN ACT CONCERNING ACADEMIC TRAINING IN RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS AND SUSTAINABILITY CAREERS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the:

1. boards of trustees of the community-technical colleges and the Connecticut State University System to establish alternative and renewable energy programs;
2. State Board of Education to review and, if necessary, modify the model green jobs program offered at the vocational-technical schools; and
3. higher education commissioner to study and report on academic programs to develop and expand green industries in the state.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2009, except for the higher education study provision, which is effective upon passage.

ALTERNATIVE AND RENEWABLE ENERGY TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION

The bill requires the Board of Trustees of the Community-Technical Colleges to establish certificate credit programs to train and certify students in alternative and renewable energy. It requires the Board of Trustees of the Connecticut State University System to consult with the Institute for Sustainable Energy and the Connecticut Green Building Council to establish programs to train students in alternative and renewal energy.

The boards must do this (1) by January 1, 2012, (2) subject to Board of Governors of Higher Education (BOG) statewide policy and

guidelines, (3) within available appropriations, and (4) by taking all feasible steps to maximize available federal funds.

VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL MODEL GREEN JOBS PROGRAM

The bill requires the State Board of Education (SBE) to review, and if necessary, modify by January 1, 2012, the model green jobs programs offered at the regional vocational-technical schools to ensure that the programs sufficiently train student in renewable energy systems. SBE must do this (1) within available appropriations and (2) in conjunction with the Institute for Sustainable Energy and the Connecticut Green Building Council. The programs must train students to allow them to seek the renewal energy systems certification that the Building Performance Institute, United States Green Building Council, or the Interstate Renewable Energy Council offers.

GREEN INDUSTRY ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

The bill requires the higher education commissioner to study, in consultation with the labor and economic and community development commissioners, (1) academic programs to develop and expand green industries in the state that could be implemented at the state's public higher education institutions and (2) potential sources of federal funding to establish or implement them. The commissioner must report on the study by January 1, 2010 to the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee.

RELATED BILLS

sHB 6344, reported by the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee, requires the higher education commissioner to develop worker retraining programs for sustainable energy careers in (1) building construction; (2) electrical systems; and (3) heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems.

sSB 1068, reported by the Commerce Committee, requires the Department of Economic and Community Development to establish a program to create green jobs and promote green energy and

conservation.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 17 Nay 0 (03/17/2009)